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shadow STAR★

子たる珠星なる彼





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n
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n

shadow STAR

鉄なる星珠たる子

WHAT CAN I DO
FOR YOU NOW?

story and art

MOHIRO KITOH

translation

CHRISTOPHER LEWIS &

TOREN SMITH

lettering and touch-up

SNO CONE STUDIOS & DIGITAL CHAMELEON



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SHADOW STAR Vol. 4: WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU NOW?

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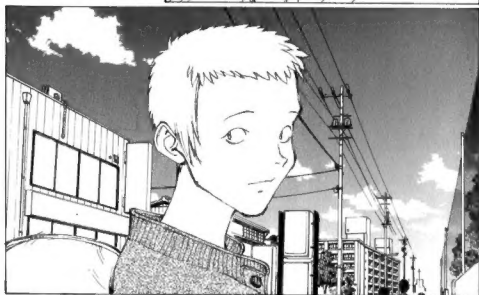
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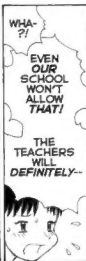
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A FOOTLESS DOLL

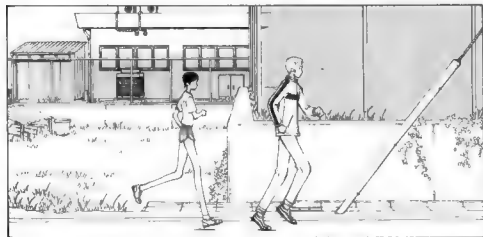
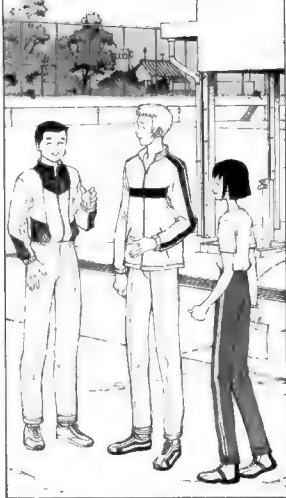














UM...
KAZ...?
AT THE 200
METERS
PRELIMI-
NARIES...

...YOU
LET UP
JUST
BEFORE
THE
FINISH
LINE...
DIDN'T
YOU?



YOU
THINK
...?



YES!! YOU
DEFINITELY
COULD'VE
MADE IT
TO THE
FINALS!



NAW. I
HAVEN'T
BEEN
TRAINING
RIGHT.
JUST
RAN OUT
OF GAS...
THAT'S
ALL.

NO
WAY!!



YOU
KNOW,
KAZUYUKI...
IF YOU
TOOK IT
SERIOUSLY,
YOU
COULD
SET
RECORDS.



REALLY?
HOW DO
YOU *KNOW*,
CHIOMI?

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
SAY THINGS
LIKE THAT
YOU'D
BETTER BE
PREPARED
TO BACK
UP YOUR
WORDS...
OR TAKE
RESPON-
SIBILITY.



I...
I CAN...
.....









OH, HELP. I'M
BEING SEXUALLY
HARASSED.



K...
KAZU-
YUKI,

I...
I...
UM...



I J-JUST
WANT YOU
TO KNOW
THAT...

...I'LL DO
ANYTHING
FOR YOU.
ANYTHING.



SO...
WH-WHY
NOT ME...
INSTEAD
OF
HER?



DEAR
CHIONI...
YOU
DON'T
KNOW...

...ANYTHING
ABOUT ME,
DO YOU?

CHIONI
...?

Y-YES
...?

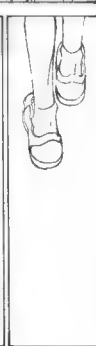
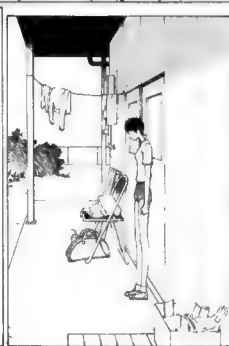
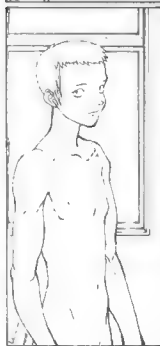


OF...OF
COURSE
NOT! OF
COURSE
I DON'T.

I
MEAN...
NOT
REALLY.
NOT YET.

Y-
YOU'RE
NOT
BEING
FAIR!









SO,
WHAT
IS IT?

WHO
ARE
YOU?

I DON'T
MATTER.
IT'S ABOUT
YOU. YOU'RE
MAKING HIM
UNHAPPY.

HUH?

y...
YOU'RE
NOT GOOD
FOR
KAZUYUKI!

SO...
YOU
LIKE
KAZU-
YUKI.

.....
.....



YOU
DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
HIM.

FOOLISH
GIRL!



BESIDES,
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN
BY *NOT
GOOD*
FOR
HIM?

THAT'S
ONLY BASED
ON WHAT
YOU WANT
KAZUYUKI
TO BE LIKE,
RIGHT?

HMPH/
ARRO-
GANT
BITCH.

DON'T
YOU EVEN
KNOW
KAZUYUKI
WILL ONLY
BE WHAT
HE WANTS?

YOU...
OOH/
H-HOW
DARE
YOU...!!



IF YOU
CAN'T
ACCEPT
THAT, ALL
THAT'S
LEFT
IS...

...GIVE
HIM
UP.



OR...
KILL
HIM.



TO WANT
TO CONTROL
SOMEONE...

JUST
LEAVING
THEIR
EGO...

...IS
THE
ULTIMATE
ARROGANCE.



"WHEN
I WAS A
CHILD..."

"...KAZUYUKI
BORROWED
MY DOLL."

"HE HAS
A LITTLE
SISTER,
SO I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
FOR HER."

IT
WAS MY
FAVORITE....

WHEN
IT CAME
BACK...

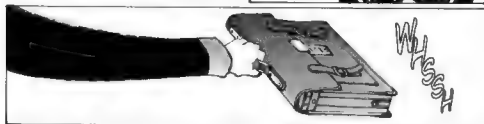
ITS
FEET
HAD
BEEN CUT
OFF AT THE
ANKLES.

UNDER-
STAND...?

HE'S
THAT
KIND
OF
GUY.

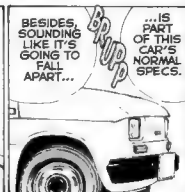
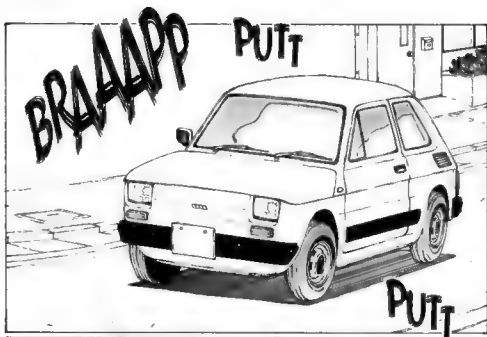
YOU...

YOU WANT
TO BE ABLE
TO KEEP ON
RUNNING,
DON'T
YOU?



REDEMPTION FOR THE FORGOTTEN







ARRGH! IT'S WEIRD TO BE SITTING OVER HERE WITHOUT A STEERING WHEEL IN MY HANDS!!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SIT BACKWARDS, THEN.

AWW... C'MON.

LET'S CHANGE TO A NICE JAPANESE CAR.



I DON'T INTEND TO CHANGE MY PERSONAL BELONGINGS...

...TO FIT YOUR TASTE, MR. VICE DIRECTOR MIYAKO.



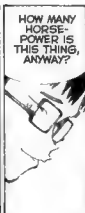
MS. SATO...

...YOU BOUGHT THIS CAR JUST TO BUG ME, DIDN'T YOU?

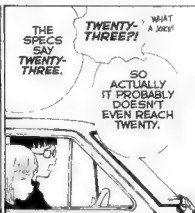


I WOULDN'T USE MY MONEY SO POINTLESSLY.

PLEASE DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.



HOW MANY HORSE-POWER IS THIS THING, ANYWAY?



THE SPECS SAY TWENTY-THREE.

WHAT A JOKE! TWENTY-THREE?!

SO ACTUALLY IT PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN REACH TWENTY.



YOU KNOW...
JAPANESE
CARS AND
JAPANESE
MEN ARE
VERY MUCH
ALIKE.



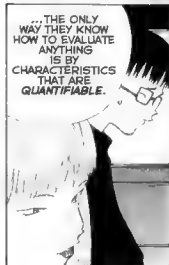
THEY POLISH
THEIR OUTSIDE,
BUT THEY HAVE
NOTHING
INSIDE...

...AND
YOU FEEL
NOTHING
ARISING
FROM
WITHIN.



NO MATTER
HOW HARD
THEY TRY, THEY'RE
STILL JUST
INTERCHANGEABLE,
DISPOSABLE
UNITS.

AND...



...THE ONLY
WAY THEY KNOW
HOW TO EVALUATE
ANYTHING
IS BY
CHARACTERISTICS
THAT ARE
QUANTIFIABLE.



WITHOUT
QUANTIFI-
CATION...

...THIS
OVER-
COMPLEX
SOCIETY
WOULDN'T
FUNCTION.

AND
BESIDES...



...THIS
CAR IS
CLUNKY...
ISN'T IT?

ISN'T IT
FORTUNATE
THAT I'M A
WOMAN WHO
CAN SHOW
AFFECTION
TOWARDS
INADEQUATE
THINGS...?

HELLO!
WE PHONED
THE OTHER
DAY.

WE'RE
SORRY TO
INTERRUPT
YOU WHEN
YOU'RE SO
BUSY...

MY NAME
IS AKI SATO,
FROM THE
MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION'S
CONTINUING
EDUCATION
BUREAU.

I'M
TATSUMI
MIYAKO.

ER...
UH...

N-
NICE
TO
MEET
YOU...

JUST CARRY
ON AND TEACH
THE CLASS AS
USUAL. WE'RE
JUST HERE TO
OBSERVE.



HEY,
SHIINA!
WHAT
HAPPENED?

DIDN'T
SEE YOU
THE LAST
TWO
CLASSES!

YOU
OUT OF
PRACTICE
...?

HUH...?

NO
WAY!
NOT AT
ALL!

CHECK
IT OUT!

HAI YAAA!

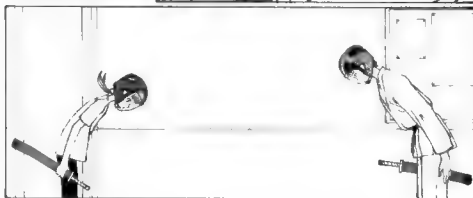
DAMN!!

HOW CAN
YOU GET YOUR
LEG THAT
HIGH..?

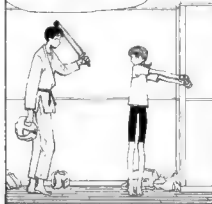
SAY...
THAT CUTE
GIRL NEVER
CAME
BACK, DID
SHE?

JUST
SHOWED
THAT
FIRST
TIME...

.....
YEAH.



YOU'RE REALLY
GOING AT IT TODAY,
SHIINA. IS IT 'CAUSE
THE RANKING EXAMS
ARE COMING
UP?



NAW...
NOTHING
LIKE
THAT.

JUST
BLOWING
OFF
STEAM.

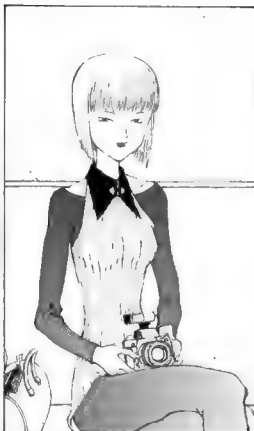


YEAH, OF
COURSE...
FIGURES!



AS IF YOU
WOULDN'T
PASS THE
TEST FOR
THE NEXT
RANK
EASY!







OKAY!
CHANGE
SPARRING
PARTNERS!



WELL?
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

THAT
GIRL IS
SOME-
THING
SPECIAL.



SHE'S
EXCEP-
TIONALLY
PHYSICAL-
LY COORDI-
NATED.

THINK SHE
MATCHES
UP WITH THE
GIRL IN THE
VIDEO?

MM.
I MAY BE
INFLUENCED
BY PRECON-
CEPTIONS,
BUT...



YOU'D
CALL HER
CHOICE
NUMBER
ONE?

YEAH.
ME,
TOO.

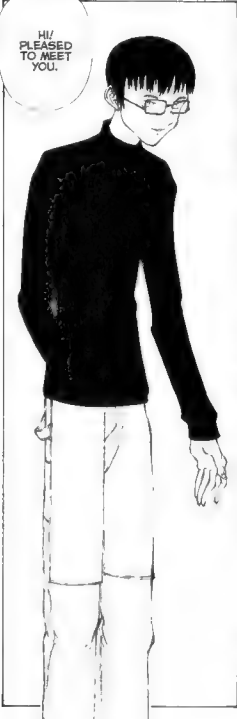


OKAY.

MAYBE
I'LL TRY
CROSSING
SWORDS
WITH HER.

AS A
WARRIOR.





HI/
PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU.



MY
NAME IS
TATSUMI.

UH...
HI.

SHIINA.



HEY,
THAT'S
A NICE
NAME!



ANYWAY,
I READ SOME
BOOKS AND
STUDIED UP THE
SWORD BATON
RULES.



SEEMS
PRETTY
SIMPLE.

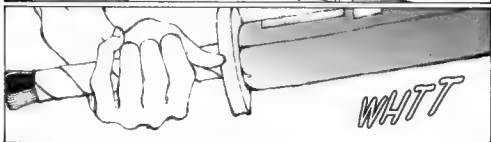




SUCH
BEAUTIFUL,
INTENSE
EYES...



IT'S NICE
HOW KIDS
CAN LOSE
THEMSELVES IN
SOMETHING
SO EASILY.





?: "ONE FULL POINT"

IPPON!*

HUH?
I LOST
ALREADY?

W...
WAIT!!

ONE
MORE
ROUND!

OKAY.

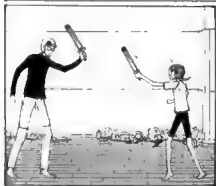
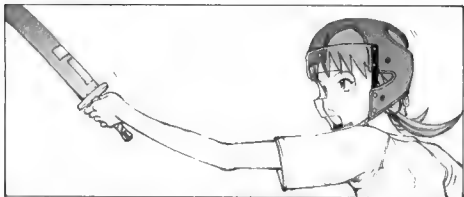
THIS
TIME...
FOR
REAL.

SWAK

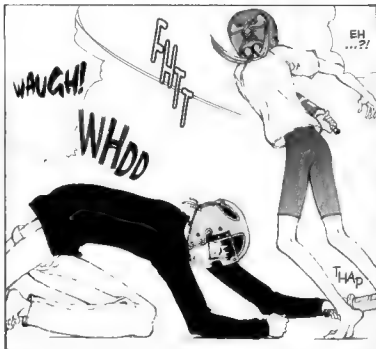
FWAP











GETTING
SO SERIOUS
AGAINST A
CHILD...

...AND
WINNING
SO PATHET-
ICALLY.
REALLY,
TATSUMI!

A
VICTORY
IS A
VICTORY...
ISN'T
IT?

BUT,
YOU KNOW...
IT'S REALLY
PRETTY
FUN.

HOW
ABOUT
GIVING
IT A TRY,
AKI?

I'M
REALLY
NOT INTO
THINGS
LIKE THIS.

UH-
HUH.
SURE.

BET YOU JUST
DON'T WANT TO
MAKE A FOOL OF
YOURSELF IN
FRONT OF
THESE KIDS.

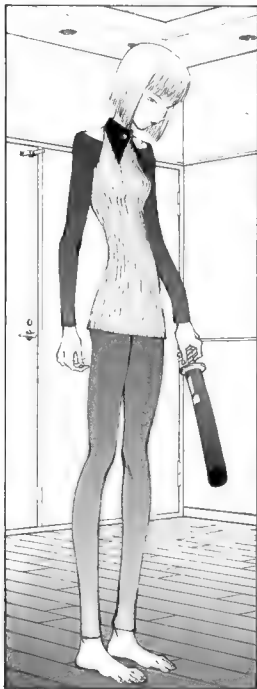
SAVE
YOUR
CHILD
PSYCHO-
LOGY FOR
THE CHILD-
REN.

GEE, ISN'T
SHE GOING
TO TRY,
MISTER?

OH, NO--
SHE'S TOO
OLD.

SHE'S
NO MATCH
FOR YOUNG
KIDS LIKE
YOU...

...IN
MANY
WAYS.



WOULD
SOMEONE
LIKE TO
VOLUNTEER
TO BE MY
OPPONENT...?



OH...
UH...
IF IT'S
OKAY...

...HOW
ABOUT
ME?



BOW!



BEGIN!



HEAD
STRIKE!
BODY
STRIKE!
DOUBLE
HIT!



COOL!
WAY
COOL!

YOU'RE
REALLY
GOOD,
LADY!



ABOUT
WHAT I
EXPECTED,
AKI.



NICE
TALK.



WHAT
WOULD
YOU HAVE
DONE
IF I'D
LOST?

WELL,
OF
COURSE...





GEE...YOU
REALLY ARE
GOOD, AREN'T
YOU?

"SHIINA"...
RIGHT?

ARE YOU
THE BEST
IN THIS CLASS?

UMM...
.....

NO...
NOT
REALLY.

YOUR
FATHER A
MARTIAL
ARTIST
OR SOME-
THING?

HA, HA/
NO, NOT
EXACTLY!

HE'S A
PILOT.

REALLY?
WOW.

WHAT
SORT OF
PILOT?
NOT THE
JSDF...?

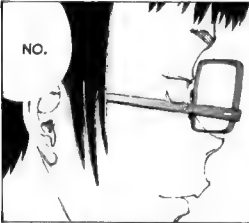
"WELL,
HE USED
TO BE..."

"BUT
THAT'S
BEFORE
I WAS
BORN,
SO..."



RIGHT NOW
HE WORKS
FOR A SMALL
PLACE CALLED
MOTOKI
AVIATION.

BET YOU
NEVER
HEARD
OF IT.



NO.

SORRY.



THANKS FOR
THE FIGHT! IT
WAS FUN... THE
BEST I'VE
FELT IN A
WHILE.

I'VE HAD
A BAD
COUPLE
OF WEEKS,
SO...



WHY? WHAT
HAPPENED
...?

AH...



ER...

JUST...
SOME
STUFF AT
SCHOOL...

DAMN,
THIS CAR'S
TINY!



SO,
ANOTHER
DOJO
DOWN.

NOW THE
QUESTION IS,
HOW LARGE OF
A RADIUS DO
WE SEARCH
FROM THE
POINT WHERE
THE UFO WAS
SIGHTED?

MR. VICE
DIRECTOR
MIYAKO... I
HATE TO TELL
YOU THIS,
BUT...

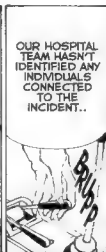
...ASIDE
FROM THE
INDEPENDENT
DOJOS
THAT WE
FACTORED
INTO OUR
ORIGINAL
SEARCH...

...IT SEEMS
THAT NEARLY
EVERY SCHOOL
IN THIS ENTIRE
AREA HAS
INCORPORATED
SWORD BATON
INTO THEIR
ATHLETIC
PROGRAMS.

YOU'RE
KIDDING.

SAD
BUT
TRUE.

SHALL WE
TAKE STAFF
OFF THE
HOSPITAL
STAKE-
OUTS...?



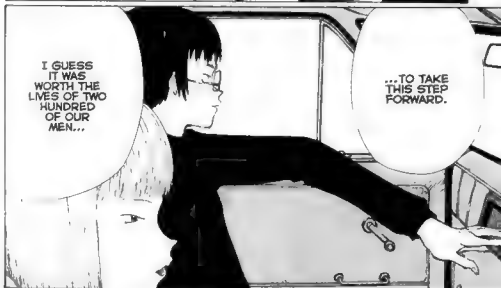


THANK
YOU,
GUYS!!



BYE-BYE,
MISTER!!

SEE
YA!!



I GUESS
IT WAS
WORTH THE
LIVES OF TWO
HUNDRED
OF OUR
MEN...

...TO TAKE
THIS STEP
FORWARD.

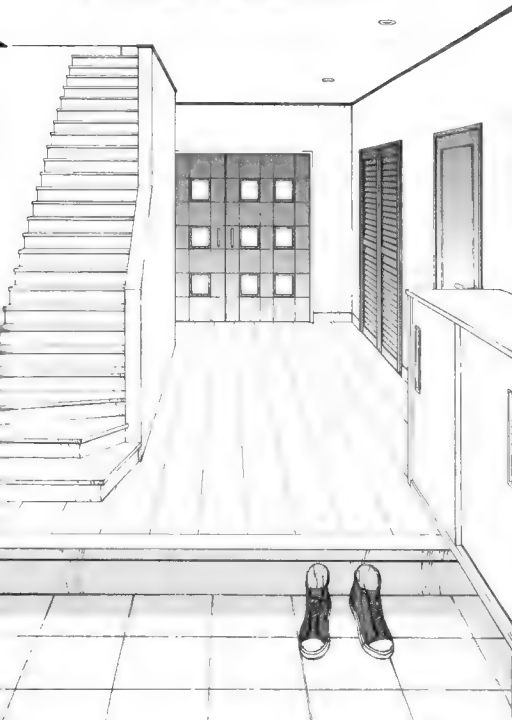


AND AS
FAR AS
THAT GIRL
GOES...

I DO
BELIEVE
WE'RE ON
THE RIGHT
TRACK.



A COLD ENTRANCE





SO...
WHAT
DO I DO
NOW?

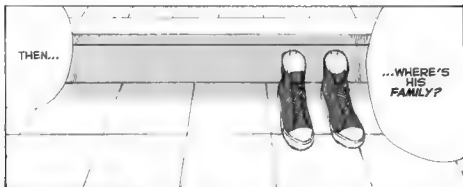
I
MEAN,
THE
FACT
IS...

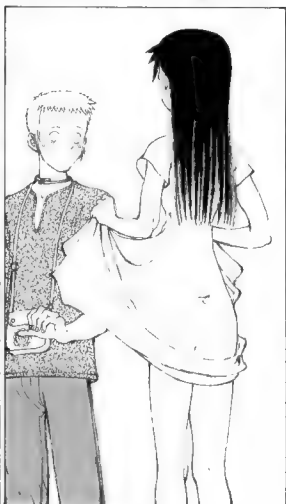
I
REALLY
DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
SUDO.

THAT
HOUSE...
I THOUGHT
HE'D "REQUI-
SIONED" IT
SOMEHOW.

BUT...

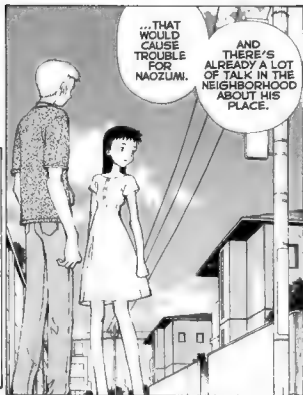
...THIS
REPORT
SAYS HE'S
BEEN LIVING
HERE WITH
HIS FAMILY
FOR TEN
YEARS.







I REALLY
DON'T WANT
TO WEAR
ANYTHING,
BUT...



...THAT
WOULD
CAUSE
TROUBLE
FOR
NAOZUMI.

AND
THERE'S
ALREADY A LOT
OF TALK IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ABOUT HIS
PLACE.

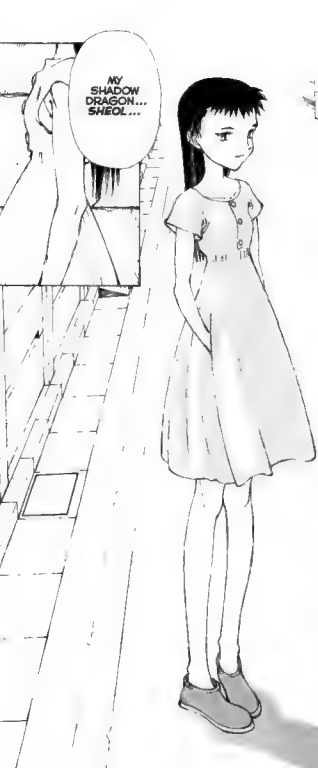


MAMIKO...
YOU BEAR
A SHADOW
DRAGON,
TOO
RIGHT?

OF
COURSE.



I
CAN'T
REALLY
USE IT
YET,
BUT...



MY
SHADOW
DRAGON...
SHEOL...

IT'S
INCREDIBLE.

YOU'LL
SEE

"SHEOL"
HUH?

YES. IT'S
INTERESTING
HOW NAOZUMI
DOESN'T LIKE
TO NAME THEM,
ISN'T IT?

TRUE...HE
HASN'T EVEN
NAMED HIS
YET.







BUT... WHY
ME?



BECAUSE
YOU'VE
ALREADY
KILLED
MANY
PEOPLE,
HAVEN'T
YOU?

**KAZUMASA
ONO**, MOTOKI
AIR SERVICE
PILOT. WIFE
AND SINGLE
DAUGHTER.

HIS WIFE
IS STILL
VISITING THE
EMPLOYMENT
OFFICE EVERY
DAY, TRYING
TO FIND A
JOB.

**ATSUSHI
FUKUSHIMA**,
JAPAN AIR
SELF
DEFENSE
FORCES
PILOT.

WIFE
AND TWO
CHILDREN.
THEY WERE
LIVING WITH
THE HUSBAND'S
PARENTS, BUT
THE WIFE AND
HUSBAND'S
MOTHER'S
RELATIONSHIP
IS NOW FALLING
APART. SHE WILL
PROBABLY BE
FORCED TO LEAVE
THE HOUSE, WITH
THE CHILDREN.

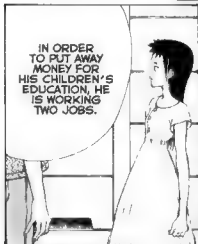
**JUNJI
KOUNO**,
FREELANCE
CAMERAMAN,
SPECIALIZING
IN MILITARY
ISSUES.

**KEITA
WATANABE**,
JAPAN
GROUND
SELF
DEFENSE
FORCES
OFFICER.

WIFE
AND SINGLE
SON. THEY
ARE PRESENTLY
SUFFERING
FROM OF THE
STIGMA OF BEING
THE FAMILY OF AN
ACCUSED TRAITOR,
AND HAVE GONE
INTO HIDING AT THE
WIFE'S PARENTS'
HOME.

HIS
WEDDING
WAS TO TAKE
PLACE NEXT MONTH.
HIS FIANCEE HAS
ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
BY JUMPING OFF
HER BALCONY. SHE
SURVIVED, BUT IS
NOW PARALYZED
FROM THE WAIST
DOWN.

HIS SON
WAS BADLY
BEATEN THE
ONE DAY HE
TRIED TO GO
TO SCHOOL.



"THEY
MAY BE
YOUR
ENEMY...
THEY
MAY EVEN
BE EVIL,
BUT THE
INDIVIDUAL...

...WILL
ALWAYS
HAVE A
FAMILY OR
FRIENDS."

YES, IT'S
EASIER TO ACT
CRUELLY AGAINST
SOMEBODY YOU
DON'T KNOW,
BECAUSE THEY
ARE A CIPHER.

"BUT..."

....

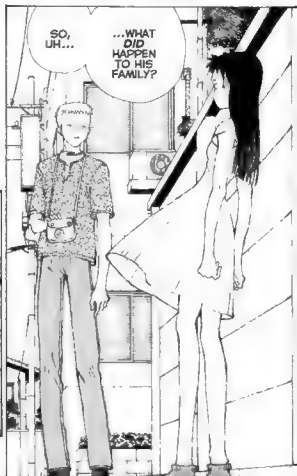
EVERYBODY
HAS A LIFE
THEY ARE
LIVING.

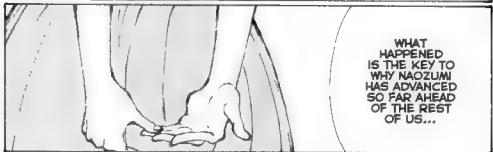
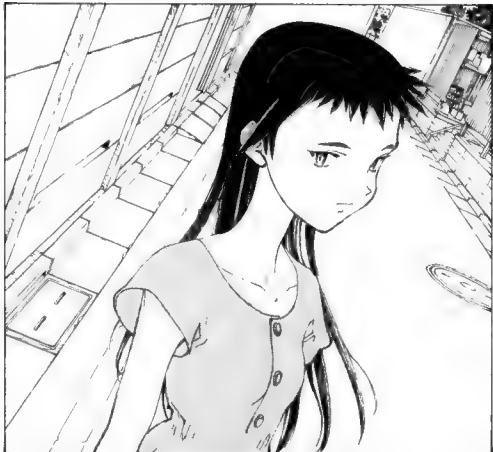
"THEY
ARE NO
DIFFERENT
FROM THOSE
IMPORTANT
TO YOU."

IF
YOU ARE
GOING
TO KILL
SOMEONE...

...ISN'T
IT WRONG
TO LOOK
AWAY FROM
THE HARSH
TRUTH?







FISH LIFE, HUMAN LIFE



お食事むす

ONE FRIED
SNAPPER
SPECIAL WITH
A SIDE OF
TOFU.

I'LL HAVE
THE TEMPURA
VEGETABLES
COURSE.

'SCUSE ME!
ANOTHER
BOTTLE OF
BEER OVER
HERE...

GOT
YA!

COMING...!



SKSSH



CAN I
GET A
FRIED
EGG ON
THE
SIDE...?

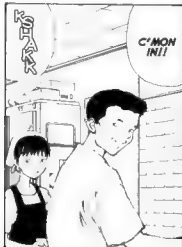
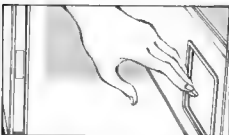
SIZZ

GOT
YA!



SO
NO HELP
FROM AKIRA
TONIGHT...
AGAIN.







WHO
ORDERED
THE
MACKEREL
SET WITH
MISO...?



HERE YOU
GO, SIR!
THANKS
FOR
WAITING!



HMM?
YOU'RE
NEW HERE,
AREN'T
YOU?

YESSIR!
JUST
TODAY!



HERE'S
YOUR BEER!
SORRY
FOR THE
DELAY!



HEY,
SHINA...
YOU UP FOR
ADOPTION...?

HA, HA!

NO
CAN
DO!

MY POOR
SWEET
DADDY
WOULD DIE
IF I LEFT
HIM.

BESIDES,
YOU'VE
GOT AKIRA...
REMEMBER,
MR.
SAKURA...?

IT'S NICE TO SEE
ANOTHER PRETTY
FACE HERE, BUT
I MISS YOUR
DAUGHTER.

YOU REALLY
THINK
AKIRA'S
PRETTY...?

WHAT?!
ARE YOU
KIDDING?!

LOTS
OF GUYS
COME HERE
TO JUST
TO SEE
HER, YOU
KNOW.

HUH?
ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

YOU
THINK SO,
MICHIKO...?

WELL,
YES. I
DON'T
KNOW IF
AKIRA
LIKES IT,
BUT...IT'S
TRUE.





OH...

...IT'S
YOU.



??

I'LL
HAVE A
SMALL BOWL
OF RICE AND
A DISH OF
PICKLED
VEGETABLES.



IS
THAT
ALL?

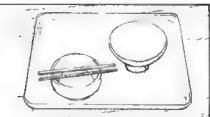
COMIN'
UP!



UM...
HERE
YOU GO.



MM.
GOOD.





WELL...
YES.

BUT
AKIRA'S--



I KNOW.

BUT
I'D LIKE
TO SEE
HER.



CAN YOU
LET HER
KNOW...

...THAT
NAOZUMI
SUDO IS
HERE
FOR HER?

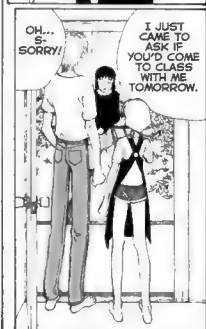


UM, AKIRA,
DEAR?
SORRY TO
BOTHER
YOU--

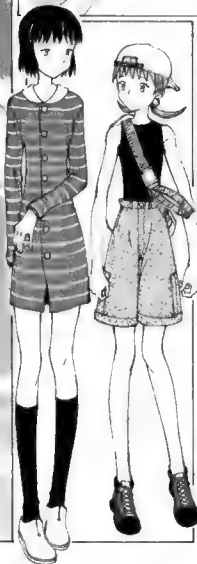
BUT AKIRA...
THERE'S A
BOY NAMED
NAOZUMI SUDO
HERE TO SEE
YOU. HE--













UM...
WHERE
ARE WE G-
GOING?

SINCE YOU
HAVEN'T
EVEN SEEN
THE SUN,
PERHAPS
BEING
OUTDOORS
WOULD DO
YOU SOME
GOOD.

YES,
MISS
SAKURA?

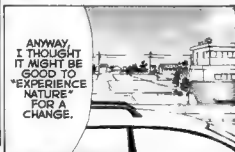


SO...
HOW
ABOUT...

...FISHING?

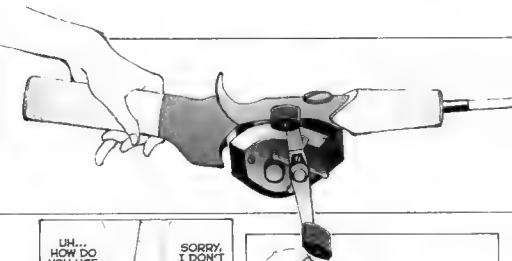


??
FISHING...?





THIS
LOOKS
LIKE THE
PLACE...



UH...
HOW DO
YOU USE
THIS?

SORRY,
I DON'T
KNOW
SO WELL
MYSELF.



I BROUGHT
A BOOK.
READ
ABOUT IT.



HEY, GUYS!
WHO WANTS
TO TEACH ME
HOW TO USE
ONE OF
THESE?

THAT'S SO
"SHINA" ♡









WHOA...?!

TUNGG

SHIINA?
YOU
TOO?!



WAAH!
WHAT
DO I DO
NOW!?

CRANK
IT!!

BUT,
SHIINA...

JUST
CRANK
IT!!

AH!
NAOZUMI...?!

WAIT,
I'LL
CHECK
THE BOOK!

EK!!



IT...
IT WON'T
BITE ME...
W-WILL
IT?

GRAB
IT BY
THE LOWER
JAW!





GOOD JOB,
GIRLS!
NOW...LET
THEM
GO.

WHAT!?!
I DON'T
GET TO
EAT IT?!
NO WAY!!



SHUFFE
SORRY,
DADDY... SAY
BYE-BYE
TO YOUR
DINNER.



WOW...!

PRETTY
FUN, HUH,
AKIRA?

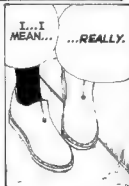




??
AKIRA...?!



WELL...
UM...
I WAS
JUST SO
SURPRISED!



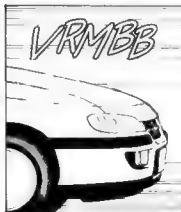
I...I
MEAN...
...REALLY.



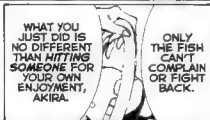
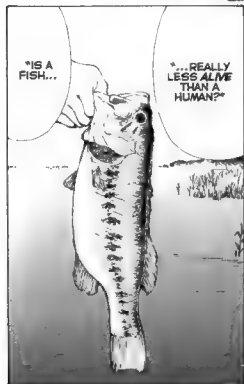
DID
YOU HAVE
FUN...?



YES.
YES, I
DID.









AKIRA
SAKURA...

...WILL
YOU
JOIN MY
GROUP?



NA...
NAOZUMI,
I...
I...



YOU
FORESAW
THIS.

BUT
YOU CAME
WITH ME
TODAY,
ANYWAY.



*THE RITUAL
OF MAKING A
THOUSAND
ORIGAMI
CRANES AS
A SACRED
OFFERING IS
MEANINGLESS.

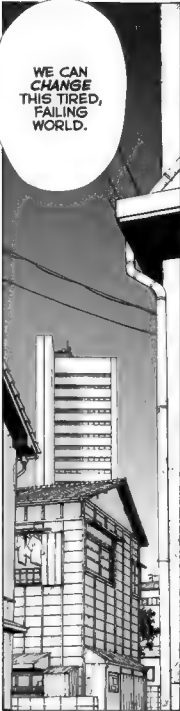
*I SAID
THIS
BEFORE--*



IT'S
FOOLISH
TO THINK
OF DOING
SOMETHING
FOR THE
DEAD.

INSTEAD,
WILL YOU DO
SOMETHING
FOR
YOURSELF,
WHO STILL
REMAINS?





WE CAN
CHANGE
THIS TIRED,
FAILING
WORLD.

FREED
FROM CUSTOM,
TRADITION,
SOCIAL VALUES,
CONVENTIONAL
WISDOM...

A WORLD
MADE UP OF
INDIVIDUALS
POSSESSING
THE ABILITY...

...TO
CRITICIZE AND
REVOLUTIONIZE
THEMSELVES.

WHERE
INDIVIDUALS
UNABLE TO
THINK FOR
THEMSELVES
WILL PERISH.

THAT
KIND OF
SOCIETY...

...IS A
SOCIETY
FULL OF
PAIN.

BUT PAIN
CLARIFIES
THE MIND.

I AM
LOOKING
FOR
COMPANIONS.

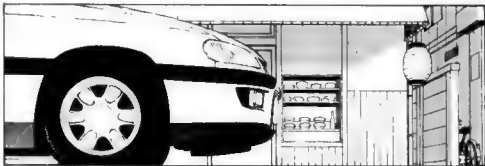
ESPECIALLY...

zzzkk



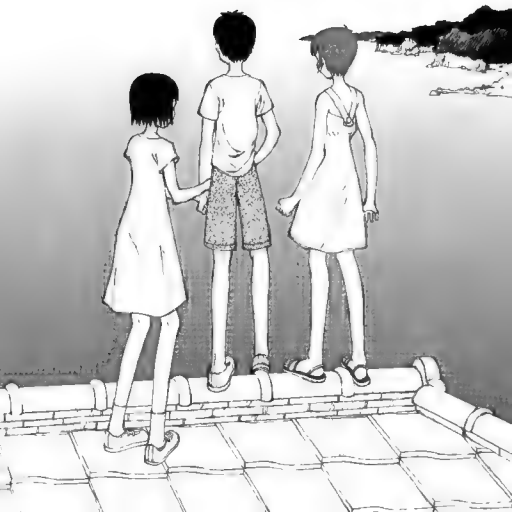
...THOSE
WHO BEAR
A SHADOW
DRAGON...

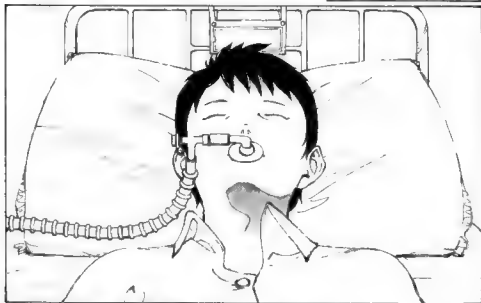
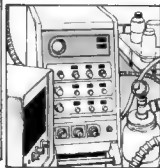
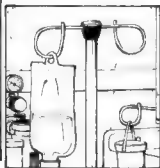
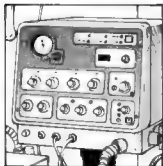
...AND
YET
DO NOT
REVEAL
IT.





**WHAT CAN I DO
FOR YOU NOW?**

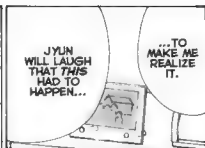




KYOJI...

I
WROTE
TO
JYUN...

...ABOUT
MY
FEELINGS.

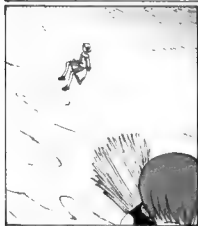


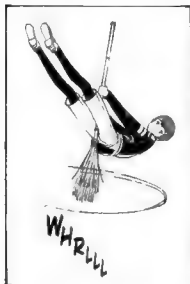
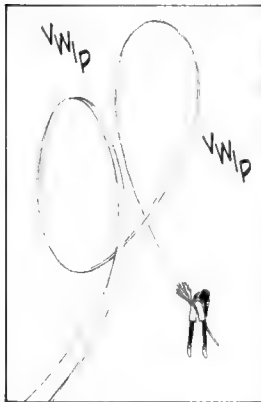














GOOD
EVENING.

ALL DONE
WITH YOUR
AEROBATICS...?

I...
AH...

YOU KNOW,
I ALWAYS
IMAGINED
THERE MUST
BE OTHERS
LIKE ME
OUT
THERE...

...BUT
THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
MET
ONE.

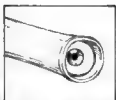
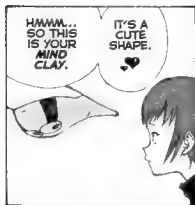
UMM...

ARE
YOU
A...A
WITCH?

HAH
HAH
HAH!

NO,
NO!







"HOSHI-MARU"
...?

YOU
CALL
THESE
HOSHI-
MARU?

HA
HA
HA!



OH!

NO,
NO. I
MEAN...

WE...I CALL
THEM **SHADOW
DRAGONS**,
AND LIKE
THAT...



HOSHI-
MARU'S
HIS
NAME.



YOU
NAME
THEM
...?

HUH?
YOU
DON'T?



HMM...
THEN...



"BROOM-
STICK."



AW,
C'MON!

HA
HA
HA!



SOME
KIND OF
HIGH-LEVEL
TRAINING?

WELL....
YEAH!
SO?

HA
HA HA...
YOU'RE
AN
UNUSUAL
KID!

ANY-
WAY...
WHY?

I...I CAN'T
COMMUNICATE
MY FEELINGS
TO HOSHIMARU
VERY WELL.

HARDLY AT
ALL, REALLY

YOU'RE
STILL
ESTABLISH-
ING THE
LINE.

HOW
LONG
HAVE
YOU
BEEN
CONNECT-
ED WITH
HIM?

UM...
SINCE
EARLY
AUGUST.

HUH?!

NOT
LIKE
YESTER-
DAY OR
TODAY?

NO...



DRAGONS.

YES...



**C'MON...
IF YOU'RE
LUCKY...**

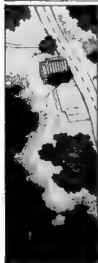
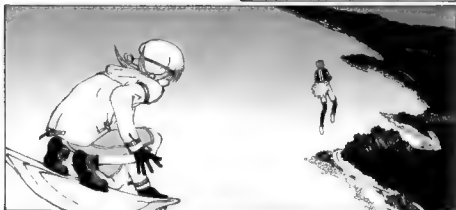
**...I
MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO SHOW
YOU.**

**OKAY...
NOW...**

**WE'RE
GONNA
FLY A
BIT.**

**RIGHT
ACROSS
TOKYO
BAY TO
CHIBA.**







THIS IS WHERE I WENT TO SCHOOL 'TIL FOURTH GRADE.

AND WHERE I USED TO STUDY UNTIL FIVE YEARS AGO.

THEN IT WAS CLOSED DOWN...

... 'CAUSE THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH STUDENTS.





DOESN'T
THE
SOUND OF
CRICKETS
REMIN
YOU OF
SUMMER
...?

UH-
HUH.



WHERE
DO YOU
LIVE,
JYUN?

NOW I
LIVE FAR
AWAY,
OUT IN
MATE.

I MOVED
WHEN THE
SCHOOL
CLOSED.



THEN
WHY
ARE
YOU
HERE
...?

WELL...

I HAVE
SOME-
THING
I NEED
TO DO.



SOME-
THING...
TO
DO?

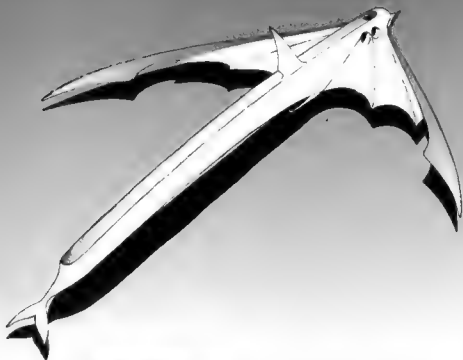










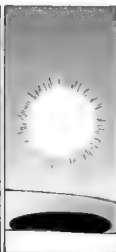
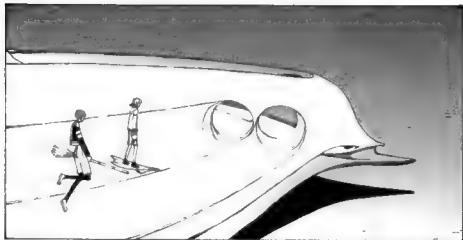


W...
WOW!

YEAH.
WOW.

MAKE
SURE
YOU
DON'T
TOUCH
IT.

MINDS
CAN
TRANS-
FER...





IT'S A
DOL-
PHIN?!

AWESOME!
A VIRGIN
PRINCESS
REVEALING
ITSELF!



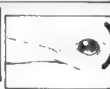
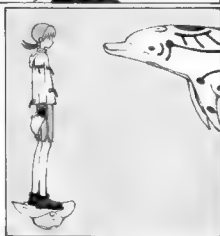
IT'S EVEN
LOOKING
AT US...

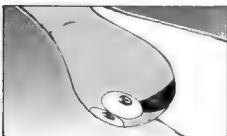
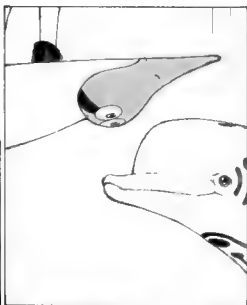


NO...
WAIT.

IT'S
LOOK-
ING
AT
YOU.







SPLRSSH SPLSH



CHKK

CRKK-KK

CHK-KK

CHK-KK
CHRRK





YOU KNOW...
I THINK WE
WERE ONLY
ABLE TO
MEET THAT
VIRGIN PRIN-
CESS...

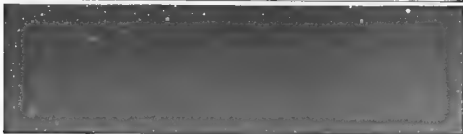
...BECAUSE
YOU WERE
HERE.

Y...
YOU
THINK
SO...?

YOU
MIGHT
BE...
SPECIAL.

YOU
MIGHT
BE...

VERY
SPECIAL.







MMPH...
AAH?!



**SHINA!
LOOK AT
THE TIME!
WE'RE
LATE!**



DAD, YOU'VE GOT
YOUR ANNUAL FLIGHT
PHYSICAL TODAY, SO
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
HURRY TO WORK,
RIGHT?

AND
IT'S A
SCHOOL
HOLIDAY
FOR ME.



OH,
YEAH...

RIGHT.
DAD

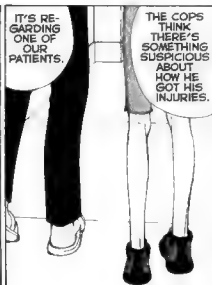
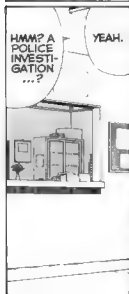


I'LL GO
TO THE
HOSPITAL
WITH YOU,
'KAY,
DADDY?

YOU'LL
JUST
END UP
SITTING
AROUND,
YOU
KNOW.







HE WAS FOUND
LYING IN FRONT OF AN
OLD CLOSED SCHOOL
IN CHIBA, WITH A
FRACTURED SKULL AND
OTHER INJURIES.

A...A
CLOSED SCHOOL
...?

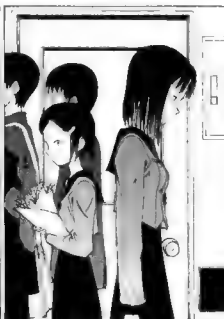
AT FIRST
WE THOUGHT
HE'D FALLEN
OFF THE
ROOF, BUT
THE POLICE
SAID HE WAS
TOO FAR
AWAY.



IT SOUNDS
LIKE A JOKE,
BUT NOW
THEY THINK
HE FELL
FROM THE
SKY.







SHŌKO
FUKUYAMA!

THIS IS
FOR
KYŌJI.

Y-YOU'RE
LUCKY,
SHŌKO.

YOU'RE
ALLOWED
INSIDE
HIS ROOM.

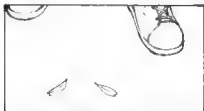
I...

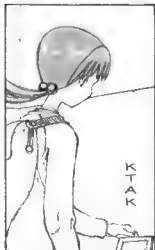
I'M NOT
DOING THIS
BECAUSE I
ESPECIALLY
WANT TO.

YOU SPENT
ALL THOSE
YEARS AT
SCHOOL
BEING MEAN
TO HIM! HOW
COME YOU'RE
ALL SWEET
AND NICE
NOW?! HUH?!

MIKI...











JYUN...

SO
SHE'S...
HERE.



SHE SAID
SHE HAD
SOMETHING
TO DO.

I
WONDER
IF THIS
WAS THAT
SOME-
THING.

I
DON'T
THINK
SO.

SHE
SHOULDN'T
EVEN KNOW
ABOUT
KYŌJI
YET



BUT IF
SHE'S IN
TOWN, I'M
SURE
SHE'LL
CONTACT
ME, SO--

COOL!!
CAN I
WAIT
HERE?

JUST IN
CASE?



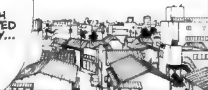
WOW,
THIS IS
GREAT!



I
REALLY
WANTED
TO MEET
JYUN
AGAIN.

....
WHY
IS
THAT?

I WISH
SHE LIVED
NEARBY...



WELL...

I DIDN'T
HAVE
MUCH
TIME...

...WITH
HER
YESTERDAY
AND I
WANTED
TO TALK
MORE.

JYUN IS
REALLY
COOL,
ISN'T
SHE?

SHE EVEN
LOOKS
COOL!

I'D ONLY BEEN
EXCHANGING
LETTERS
RECENTLY, SO
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT SHE
LOOKS LIKE
THESE
DAYS...

...BUT
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO SWAP
PHOTO-
GRAPHS
SOON.





JYUN
AND
KYOJI
AND
I...

...WE
ALL USE
TO GO
TO THE
SAME
SCHOOL.



AH... SO
THE BOY
SLEEPING
DOWN-
STAIRS...

THAT'S
KYOJI?

YES...
HE'S MY
NEPHEW.



WE
LIVED IN
A RURAL
AREA...A
FISHING
TOWN.

THE
INDUSTRY
DIED OUT...
EVERY-
BODY WAS
LEAVING
TOWN...



SO, THE
SCHOOL
GOT
CLOSED.

BUT
SOMEHOW
IT WAS
MORE LIKE
THE TOWN
ITSELF WAS
CLOSING
DOWN.



MY
FAMILY AND
RELATIVES
ALL MOVED
OUT HERE.

THAT
WAS FIVE
YEARS
AGO.

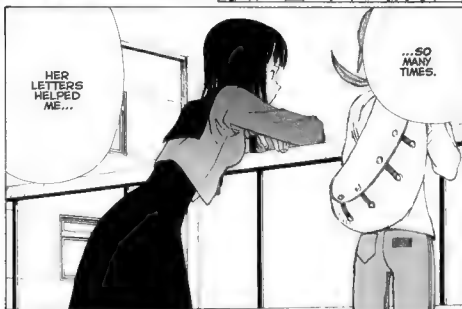
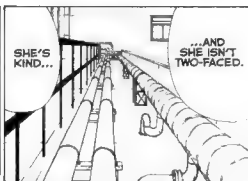


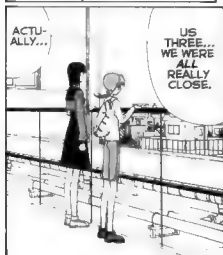
"JYUN
MOVED
AWAY
AROUND
THE SAME
TIME."



I HAVEN'T
SEEN HER
SINCE...

...BUT
SOMEHOW
WE STARTED
EXCHANGING
LETTERS
AROUND
THE TIME WE
HIT MIDDLE
SCHOOL.







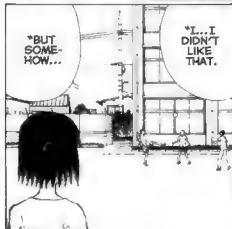
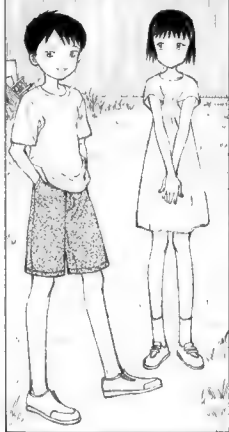
A black and white manga illustration of two characters standing on a rooftop. On the left, a girl with long dark hair is seen from behind, wearing a dark dress with a large heart-shaped cutout and white boots. On the right, a boy with short hair and a headband is also seen from behind, wearing a light-colored jacket with dark buttons and dark shoes. They are looking out over a cityscape with many buildings under a cloudy sky.

HAVE
YOU EVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT...

...LOSING
SOMEBODY
PRECIOUS
TO YOU?

A close-up of a young girl's face in profile, looking towards the right. She has long, dark hair with bangs. Her expression is one of regret or sadness.

I WAS SO
STUPID.





*IT FELT LIKE HE WAS BETRAYING OUR OLD FRIENDSHIP.

*SO I ACTED OUT AGAINST HIM...

*...OR IGNORED HIM.



*BUT DE-SPITE THAT...

*...KYŌJI WAS KIND TO ME.

*AND NOW THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED

....



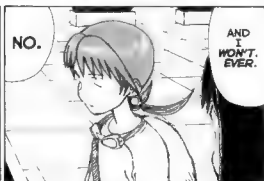
*I'VE FINALLY REALIZED THAT I...

*...I REALLY LOVED HIM.

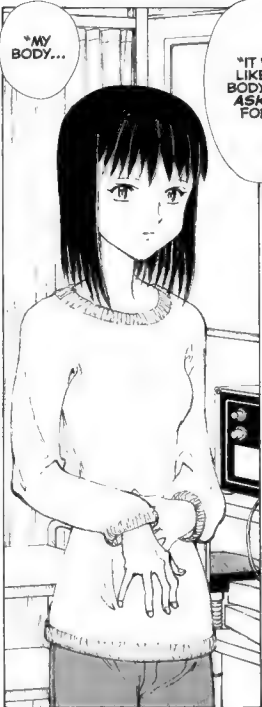


*I DID AWFUL THINGS TO KYŌJI.

*S-SUCH AWFUL THINGS..."







*MY
BODY...

*IT WAS
LIKE MY
BODY WAS
ASKING
FOR IT.

*NOT
THINKING
WITH MY
MIND...

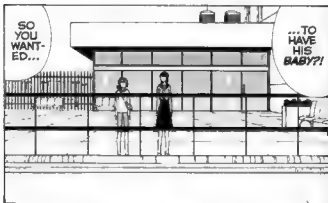
*...BUT
LIKE A
COMMAND.
FROM
SOME-
WHERE
DEEP
INSIDE MY
BODY."



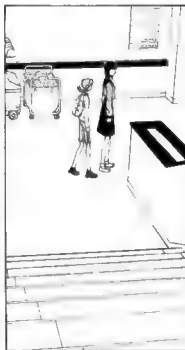
*AND
THAT'S...

*...WHEN I
REALIZED
THAT I
REALLY
LOVED
HIM.

*THAT I
SHOULD
HAVE ACTED
TRUE TO
MY HEART."



AH!

















I GOT
KYŌJI.



I
DON'T
KNOW
IF YOU
NOTICE IT,
YOURSELF...

...BUT
YOU'RE
QUITE A
BITCH,
SHŌKO.

YOU RELY
UPON OTHERS
FOR YOUR
EVERY NEED...
BUT YOU'RE
SELFISH
AND SELF-
CENTERED.

YOU
ACT
REALLY
SHY...

...BUT
YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
EGOTIS-
TICAL.

YOU LIKE
TO BE SPOILED
AND PAMPERED...
BUT YOU CLAIM
TO "ONLY NEED
YOURSELF."

YOU
DON'T
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS
HERE,
DO YOU?

AND NO
WONDER,
WITH AN
ATTITUDE
LIKE
THAT.

YOU
NEVER
WROTE A
SINGLE
SENTENCE
TO ME
ABOUT
YOUR
FRIENDS.

YOUR
LETTERS
WERE ALL
COMPLAINTS
ABOUT
KYŌJI...
AND
SELF-PITY.



SHŌKO,
YOU WERE
ALWAYS
LEANING
ON KYŌJI
AND
ME...

...TO
JUSTIFY
YOUR
SELF-
ISHNESS.



*CREAT-
ING AN
EXCUSE
TO RUN
AWAY...

*...YOU
DIDN'T
EVEN TRY
TO BUILD
NEW
RELATION-
SHIPS.*



BUT
THAT'S
GOING
TO END
NOW.



BUT...
JYUN...



KYŌJI
ISN'T
GOING
TO
MAKE
IT.

THAT'S
REALITY,
SHŌKO.





SO IT'S
TIME FOR
ME TO END
OUR RELA-
TIONSHIP,
TOO.

AND
THEN,
SHŌKO,
YOU'LL
BE
ALONE.



I AM
SORRY
I KEPT
LYING TO
YOU.



I MET
WITH KYOJI
SEVERAL
TIMES.



OF
COURSE, I
PLANNED TO
TELL YOU
SOMETIME.

AT
SOME
POINT
WHEN IT
WOULDN'T
BE SUCH
A SHOCK.



BUT,
NOW THAT
KYOJI'S
LIKE
THIS...
.....

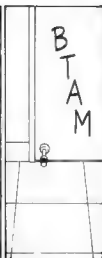
DON'T
SEND ME
ANY MORE
LETTERS,
SHOKO.

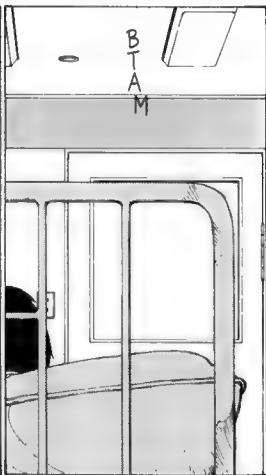


THAT'S
ALL I
HAVE TO
SAY.

GOODBYE.









HOW'S
KYOJI...? ANY
CHANGE...?



GOD!!

FW

**DAMN!!
YOUU!!**



**H-HOW
COULD
YOU?!**

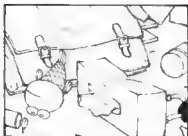
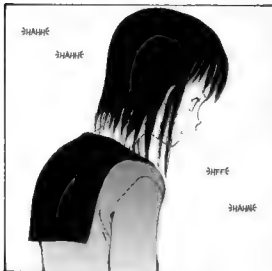
**THAT
STUPID
SLUT!!**



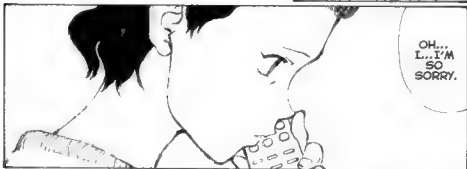
**I'LL
SHOW
HER!!**

**I'LL
MAKE A
HUNDRED
FRIENDS!**

















IS IT
BECAUSE
I WAS
SOMEHOW
PREPARED
FOR THIS?

BECAUSE
IT
DOESN'T
FEEL
REAL?

ICU 4

BECAUSE
I WAS
BETRAY-
ED?

OR...
BECAUSE
I REALLY
AM A
HEART-
LESS
PERSON?

I
WONDER
WHY...

...I'M
NOT CRYING
MY EYES
OUT.

I GUESS
I'M NOT
A VERY
NICE
GIRL.

AND
SO...

*...THAT'S
WHY KYŌJI
CHOSE
JUN.*

AM
I...

ALONE
...?

ALONE...

YES...
I AM.





HEY,
"KOMA" A
COURIER
DROPPED
OFF A
LETTER
FOR YOU.



A
LETTER
...?

"KOMA,
PHONE
CALL ON
LINE
FIVE!



YOU
START
A FAN
CLUB OR
SOME-
THING
?

NAW,
I'M
JUST
A HARD-
WORKING
GUY!



HELLO,
DETECTIVE
IKOMA
SPEAK-
ING.



WHO...
OH, FROM
IWATE.
DID YOU
FIND OUT—



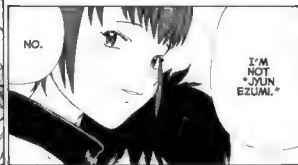
YES,
I'LL
HOLD.
NO
PRO-
BLEM.



HUH?
YES.



YES,
JYUN
EZUMI.



WHO AM I
REALLY? I
GUESS I
SHOULD SAY
I'M KYŌJI
FUKUYAMA.

AH...!

BUT THEN...
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
REAL
JYUN?

....
....
SHE
DIED.
TWO
YEARS
AGO.

JUST
AFTER SHE
STARTED
WRITING
TO SHŌKO,
IN FACT.

BUT I
COULD
TELL HER
LETTERS
WERE SO
IMPORTANT
TO SHŌKO...
SO...



A CAR
ACCI-
DENT...
I SEE.



THE
FAMILY...
MOVED...
WHERE?



BUT
THEN...
WHO WAS
WRITING THE
LETTERS...?



SO I
WROTE TO
SHOKO...
AS JYUN.

USING THE
MINDCLAY'S
POWER, I
SOMEHOW...
STEPPED
INTO HER
PERSONA.



HA, HA...I
NEVER IMAGINED
IT WOULD GO
QUITE AS FAR
AS THIS!



"WHAT
I'M AFRAID
OF IS THAT
DETECTIVE...
BUT I'VE
ASKED HIM
TO PLEASE
NOT TELL
SHŌKO
ABOUT
JYUN.

"I
WROTE
HIM SOME-
THING
CLOSE
TO THE
TRUTH...

*...THOUGH
I DON'T
KNOW IF
HE'LL
BELIEVE
THAT
STUFF.*



WHA...
WHAT
THE...?!



I DON'T
KNOW IF
THIS WAS
THE RIGHT
THING TO
DO.

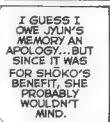


BUT I
DIDN'T
WANT
SHŌKO
TO LEARN...

...ABOUT
JYUN'S
DEATH,
THROUGH
MY DEATH.
TWO BLOWS
LIKE
THAT...



EVEN
MAKING
YOUR-
SELF...I
MEAN,
JYUN...
LOOK
BAD?



I GUESS I
OWE JYUN'S
MEMORY AN
APOLOGY...BUT
SINCE IT WAS
FOR SHŌKO'S
BENEFIT, SHE
PROBABLY
WOULDN'T
MIND.



WHEN
I THINK
ABOUT
IT...

...IT'S
KIND
OF EM-
BARRASS-
ING FOR
A GUY
TO BE
DOING
THIS.



AND
I'M
SORRY
I LIED
TO YOU,
TOO.



HMM...
YOU
REALLY
DO
LOOK
HUMAN.

DON'T
STARE
AT ME
LIKE
THAT!





*...IF
COPIES
COULD
BE ALIVE
IN A TRUE
SENSE...

*...THEN I
GUESS THE
MINDCLAY
WOULDN'T
HAVE TO
CONTACT
US.*



I'VE
PRETTY
MUCH
DONE ALL
I CAN
DO HERE
IN THE
ORDINARY
WORLD.

NOW
IT'S MY
DUTY TO
GRANT
THE
MIND-
CLAY'S
WISH.



I'LL
STOP BEING
MYSELF...
AND BECOME
ONE WITH THE
WHOLE...FOR
THE GOOD OF
THE WHOLE.

OR
THAT'S
WHAT I
IMAGINE
IT'LL BE
LIKE.



UM...
AREN'T
YOU
SCARED?



WELL,
YEAH.

BUT IT'S
SOMETHING
I'VE THOUGHT
ABOUT THESE
TWO YEARS,
EVER SINCE I
CHANNELED
WITH MY
MINDCLAY.

AND IT
SEEMS LIKE
IT'LL BE
BETTER
THAN JUST
DYING, LIKE
MY BODY
IS GOING
TO.

ALSO...

...I'M
CURIOUS TO
EXPERIENCE
THAT NEW
LIFE.

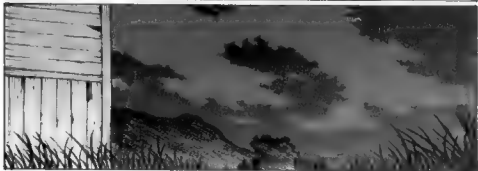
SO
BEFORE
MY OLD
LIFE RUNS
OUT...

...I HAVE
TO GIVE
MY BODY
TO THE
MIND-
CLAY.

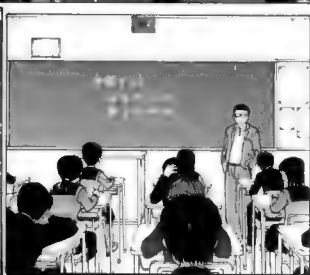
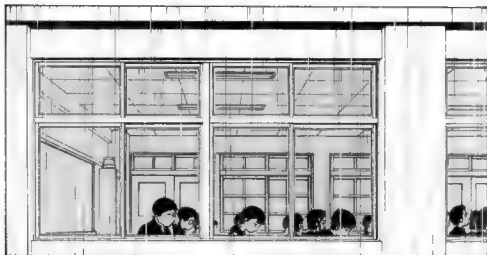
"I WANT
YOU TO
WITNESS..."

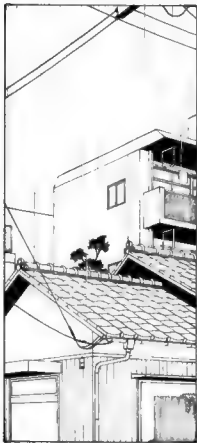
"...THE
BIRTH
OF A
DRAGON."

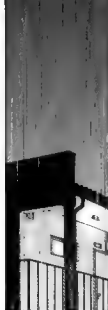








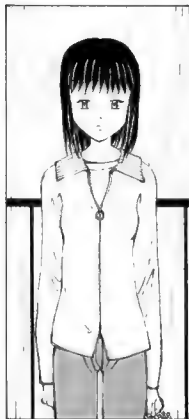




WONDER
IF HE'S
FLYING
NOW...?



?
SOME-
BODY'S
HERE.



UH,
HELLO.
AND
YOU
ARE...?

OH!



ER...
HI.

A
FRIEND
OF
YOURS
...?



WOW...
I'M SUR-
PRISED
YOU FOUND
ME.

I
ASKED
THE DOCTOR
AT THE HOS-
PITAL.

ANY-
WAY...
UM...

ABOUT...
JYUN.

CAN YOU
TELL ME
WHAT YOU
TALKED
ABOUT
WITH
JYUN...?

ANY-
THING...
NO
MATTER
WHAT.

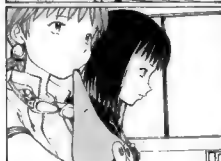
I...I
NEED
TO
KNOW...

...ALL
THAT TIME...
DID JYUN
AND KYOJI
HATE
ME?



^p
PLEASE...

I...I'M
BEGGING
YOU.





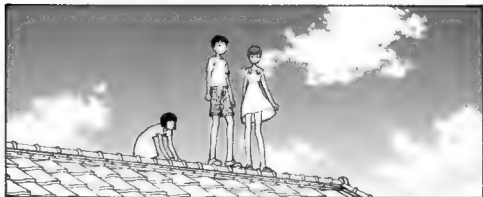
I HEARD
THE COPS
FINALLY
DECIDED
KYŌJI FELL
FROM THE
ROOF.



AND
IT MIGHT
BE TRUE.

KYŌJI AND
JYUN USED
TO CLIMB
UP THERE
A LOT. AND
ME, TOO...
SOMETIMES.





OKAY...
NOW WE
JUST
WAIT.



"WAIT"
...?

I
THOUGHT
YOU JUST
WANTED
TO SEE
WHERE
WE ALL
USED TO
LIVE?



NO. IF WE'RE
LUCKY, WE'LL
BE ABLE TO
MEET...



"MEET"...
WHAT?

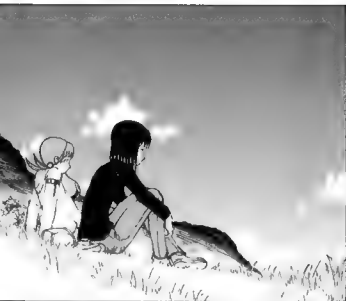
SHŌKO, YOU
PROMISED
YOU
WOULDN'T
ASK ANY
QUESTIONS!

OH,
RIGHT.
SORRY.



BUT...
I'LL TELL
YOU ONE
THING.

WE
MIGHT
MEET A
PERSON'S...
SOUL...
MAYBE...



SO I PHONED
ONE OF OUR
OLD TEACHERS
HERE. SHE
RETIRED
AFTER THE
SCHOOL
CLOSED AND
SAID SHE
WASN'T
GOING TO
MOVE.



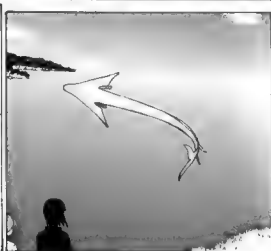
AND...

JYUN...
ISN'T
SHE...

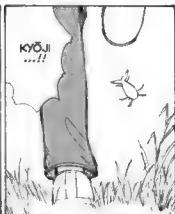


AH...?











I...

I'M
NOT
THAT
WEAK!!







CHECK IT...
SHŌKO'S
READING A
MOTOR-
CYCLE
MAGAZINE.

NO
WAY!
HER?!

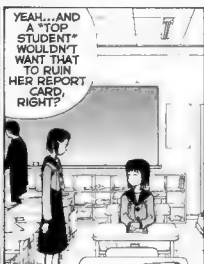


HMPH!
YOU'LL
GET
DETENTION
IF THE
TEACHER
SEES
THAT.



HA,
HA!

TOO
TRUE!/
T



YEAH...AND
A "TOP
STUDENT"
WOULDN'T
WANT THAT
TO RUIN
HER REPORT
CARD, RIGHT?



YOU'RE
NOT REALLY
PLANNING
TO GET A
MOTOR-
CYCLE...
ARE YOU?

WHY
NOT?
YOU
THINK
THAT'S
WEIRD?

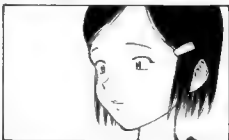


Y-YOU
MEAN...
WOW.
REALLY?



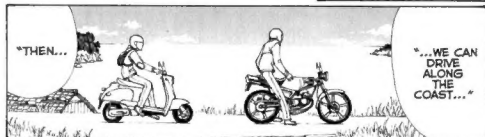
I
MEAN...
UM...

IT'S
KIND
OF NOT
LIKE
YOU...



AS SOON
AS I TURN
SIXTEEN AND
ENTER HIGH
SCHOOL...

...I
PLAN TO
GET MY
LICENSE
RIGHT
AWAY.



TO BE CONTINUED...



From a dying planet shall come the children of light...

Bonding with an adorable extraterrestrial with wondrous powers sounds like the perfect fantasy, a fantasy that becomes reality for Shina and Akira, two typical Tokyo teens, as well as for an unknown number of other youths. But the brightest fantasies can cast the darkest shadows, and these cute, cuddly creatures will eventually grow into powerful, fearsome Shadow Dragons that, if bonded with troubled teens, can become threats of the highest order. And when these Dragon-bonded delinquents begin to organize in secret, the danger grows exponentially. Shina and Akira inevitably draw the attention of this underground movement, and how the two girls choose their paths will determine the direction of their friendship – and, perhaps, the future of Mankind.

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R SUPER
**MANGA
BLAST!**
GRAPHIC NOVEL

ひょろたる

shadow star★

数なる星珠たる子



WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU NOW?
MOHIRO KTOH